

June XX, 2021

The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

Thank you for your commitment to supporting American families and agricultural producers throughout their recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. As the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) continues to assist farmers through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), we respectfully request that the Department expedite the rulemaking process to administer direct payments to contract chicken growers. We also encourage you to ensure that adequate funding is available for USDA to deliver these payments in full.

COVID-19 has severely affected the bottom lines for agricultural producers across the country, including many chicken growers in our home states. On December 21, 2020, Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, which included additional resources for USDA to continue supporting American farmers. The bill also included funding for USDA to provide direct payments for contract chicken growers who previously had been excluded from assistance provided by the CFAP. We are concerned by the fact that these chicken growers still have not received federal assistance since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. We recognize that it is challenging to determine how losses and payments should be calculated fairly, given variations in the timing of when growers receive and finish raising their flocks. Still, we encourage you to proceed swiftly with making fair payments.

We appreciate USDA's commitment to administering fair payments to contract chicken growers and your efforts to coordinate with industry stakeholders. Thank you for considering our request to expedite this process. We look forward to continuing to work with you to support our nation's farmers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Womack".

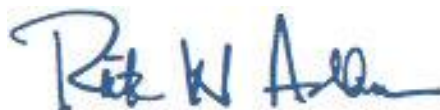
Steve Womack
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John W. Rose".

John Rose
Member of Congress



Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress



Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress



Dan Bishop
Member of Congress



Ted Budd
Member of Congress



Jerry Carl
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



Ben Cline
Member of Congress



Andrew Clyde
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
Member of Congress



Pat Fallon
Member of Congress



A. Drew Ferguson, IV
Member of Congress



Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress




Charles J. "Chuck" Fleischmann
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



Michael Guest
Member of Congress



Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress



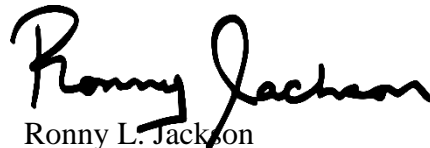
Diana Harshbarger
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



French Hill
Member of Congress



Ronny L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Mike Johnson
Member of Congress



Trent Kelly
Member of Congress



David Kustoff
Member of Congress



Julia Letlow
Member of Congress



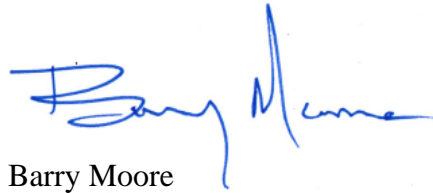
Billy Long
Member of Congress



Elaine G. Luria
Member of Congress



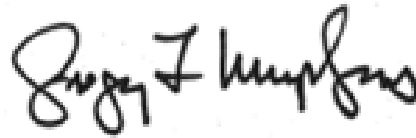
Dan Meuser
Member of Congress



Barry Moore
Member of Congress



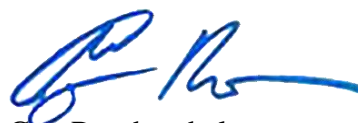
Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress



George F. Murphy, M.D.
Member of Congress



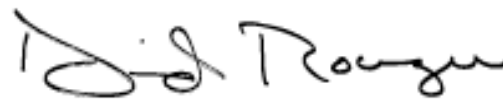
Steven Palazzo
Member of Congress



Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress



Mike Rogers
Member of Congress



David Rouzer
Member of Congress



Austin Scott
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Steube
Member of Congress



Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress



Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



John Joyce, M.D.
Member of Congress